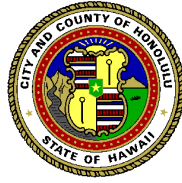


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



JAMES S. WATARU  
CHAIR

ARNOLD WONG  
VICE CHAIR

DR. JOSEPH W.C. YOUNG

MAX HANNEMANN

CHARLOTTE NEKOTA

STEFANIE LEE

WILLIAM HONG

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting  
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters  
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium  
Wednesday, July 19, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wataru called the regular meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Wataru, Arnold Wong, Dr. Joseph Young, Max Hannemann, Charlotte Nekota, Stefanie Lee, and William Hong.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara Jr. (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos (HFD), Battalion Chief Howard Naone (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief Craig Uchimura (HFD), Battalion Chief Anthony Lee (HFD), Battalion Chief Daryl Evanalrate (HFD), Battalion Chief Debbie Eleneki (HFD), Battalion Chief Damien Kahaulelio (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Fukuda (HFD), Battalion Chief Jeff Sanchez (HFD), Battalion Chief Jason Samana (HFD), Battalion Chief Mark Nakagawa (HFD), Battalion Chief Ryan Young (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Miguel (HFD), Battalion Chief John Pacheco (HFD), Battalion Chief John Bowers (HFD), Battalion Chief Alan Carvalho, Battalion Chief Paul Kato (HFD), Battalion Chief Sheldon Hao (HFD), Battalion Chief Geoffrey Chang (HFD), Captain Wayne Masuda (HFD), Amanda Furman (Corporation Counsel), Randall Ishikawa (Corporation Counsel), Molly Pierce, and Nadine Murata.

Chair Wataru asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to provide public testimony. There was no public testimony.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2017: Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of June 21, 2017. There being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as circulated.

APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2017: Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of June 21, 2017. There being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as circulated.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR: Chair Wataru asked the Commission for nomination for Chairperson. Commissioner Wong nominated Chair Wataru and Commissioner Lee seconded. Due to a unanimous vote for Wataru, Chair Wataru was reappointed as Chairperson.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR: Chair Wataru asked the Commission for nomination for Vice Chair. Chair Wataru nominated Vice Chair Wong and Commissioner Nekota seconded. Due to a unanimous vote for Wong, Vice Chair Wong was reappointed as Vice Chair.

REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF: Chief Neves passed out this monthly report and highlighted the following:

1. 2017 National Homeland Security Conference. Chief Neves mentioned that the conference was held in New York and the main topic discussed was “active threat” and concurrently it also marked the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the shooting incident in Orlando, Florida. Chief Neves also noted that the department had a briefing with its program manager and the department is moving forward towards purchasing equipment, training, and collaborating with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) in the event an active threat should occur in the community.
2. Hawaii State Fire Council Fourth Quarter Meeting. Chief Neves discussed the role of the Hawaii State Fire Council and its function.
3. HFD Station Visitations (11/921). Chief Neves noted feedbacks have been positive.
4. Hokulea Homecoming. Chief Neves noted HFD presence at the homecoming and the events of the day were monitored by its command staff.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of June, HFD received no complimentary correspondences, and no complaints.
2. Chief Neves had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their section’s recent activities.

Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara Jr.- Chief Camara informed the Commission that the FY17 budget is wrapping up and 93% of the \$127,709,901.00 was used and the remaining \$8,955,651.43 is a carry over and it will last till next July.

Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos- Support Services. Chief Bratakos spoke on improvements and fire code enforcement using its computers programs and noted that 10,000 code inspections have been conducted this fiscal year along with over 3,000 commercial plans being reviewed and that the Fire Inspector I recertification program have been completed. Chief Bratakos indicated that HFD is wrapping up its fire code for the State and is concurrently working with the City and County on amendments to the ordinance.

Chair Wataru asked Chief Bratakos how many fire fighters are certified to be inspectors and if they come from the department. Chief Bratakos indicated 60 and indicated that within the department everyone does an inspection but noted that higher risk buildings are conducted by the inspectors in the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Chief Neves also mentioned that the department is moving towards certification and inspections are broken down by risk and the potential severity of a fire to that building.

Chair Wataru asked if someone could request an inspection for a residence. Chief Neves indicated, "Yes" and it would go to the community relations section.

Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos- Planning and Development. Chief Ramos reported that the Fire Commission web page is up and running and the link is the Honolulu Fire Department and it informs the public on information on the Commissioners, their duties and responsibilities, and future agenda and minutes.

Chief Neves noted that the Commission's secretary will need to go through training to upload future information on its website.

Chair Wataru asked Chief Neves if complaints can also be made on its website. Chief Neves noted that any concerns from the public will be linked to the Commission's secretary email.

Commissioner Young asked Chief Neves how many EMS personnel are selected. Chief Neves indicated that the department's goal is to have anyone at an EMT level and part of the graduation requirement in the recruit class is one must complete the national registry EMT program. Chief Neves noted that there are 700 EMT's within the department.

Commissioner Hannemann asked if more information can be disclosed regarding its current incident. Chief Neves mentioned that its still under investigation and what is shared with the media is the only information that can be released at this time.

Commissioner Hannemann mentioned 5 fire alarm. Chief Neves mentioned over 100 fire fighters were at the scene and it took over 4 hours to get it under control.

Commissioner Hannemann if there is a point in time when change of command will be transferred. Chief Neves mentioned that it's up to the incident commander to decide and it's determined on the type of incident.

Vice Chair Wong offered his condolences to the families and thanked the department for its support. Chair Wataru also commended the department for its outstanding performance.

Commissioner Young asked about sprinklers. Chief Neves noted that the department's position is fire sprinklers are a beneficial.

Commissioner Hong asked if the department has a debriefing session after the incident and its time frame. Chief Neves answered, "Yes" and it's called post incident analysis (PIA) and currently the Chief in charge has passed out a questionnaire and once it's completed a PIA will be conducted. Commissioner Hong asked about gaps between inspection, citation, and the time a building is burned and why citations are not enforced. Chief Neves mentioned that there is a process where notification is given and then a follow up and if citation is not complied then it's turned over to a prosecuting attorney. Chief Neves noted that safety is the department's main concern.

Commissioner Hannemann mentioned safety within the department. Chief Neves noted that the department had taken one of its fire fighter out as a precaution and was medically examined. Commissioner Hannemann asked about asbestos. Chief Neves explained to the Commission that at that time of the incident all precautions are considered as well as its decontamination process.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The next meeting will be held on August 23, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., at the HFD auditorium.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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JAMES WATARU, Chair